

Given at CLINTON CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH NOV. 23, 1951.

GLANCING INTO THE PAST
written by
Verna Curtis Varcoe

Let's gaze into the past and ponder over many a year,
To think of the time when our forefathers settled here.

Before 1800 this section was a vast wilderness;
Wild animals roamed the forest and knew of no progress.

The years went by and from Connecticut the settlers came;
Blazing a trail thru the forest and living on game.

With unwavering faith, they traveled a better land to seek.
The journey, by ox-cart with worldly goods, took many a week.

Arriving here it was no easy task to clear the land.
Strong men were they, with a mind to work and a willing hand;

With a purpose of a home to make, and children to rear,
And a strong desire for a church to worship here.

There was food to get, and the ground made ready to farm,
So they met in homes to pray, with Sunday school in a barn.

Altho this was a lowly place, the worship was sincere;
For was not the Saviour born in such a place as here?

These pioneers had hard times, but a hope secure,
With determination for a church that would endure.

Building it would take quite a time, so before it was done;
'Twas organized the Central Baptist in 1831.

In time they had a church building and a place to meet
For worship and prayer meetings, with a covenant to keep.

The membership was not large, but the country would grow!
This was a great place to live in, with good neighbors to know.

It was not always smooth going; for a cyclone one day
Came in 1851, and blew the building away.

The foundation only remained, when the wind was still.
Parts were found all around, while some reached Edenville.

Did they give up? Not the men and women of that day!
In a few years it was rebuilt, and stands here to-day.

Ministers filled with Spiritual Life answered the call,
Who helped to enrich the church and the lives of all.

There were deacons, trustees, officers and members too,
Who have helped to make it stronger, steadfast and true.